

ITS ECONOMIC ASPECT

Reciprocity Considered from This Point of View.

Foreign Trade Always Followed by Marked Depression of Domestic Industrial Production.

Such is the suggestive title of a lecture delivered before the students of the College of Commerce in the University of California, on the evening of April 4, by Mr. John P. Young, of the San Francisco Chronicle. Mr. Young is the author of "Protection and Progress," a work of great strength and importance, which made its appearance last year and attracted very wide attention. Ranking as he does, among the ablest economic writers of the day, Mr. Young's views regarding "The Economic Aspects of Reciprocity" are sure to command respectful consideration. Inquiring into the causes of the rise and fall of nations, Mr. Young makes the terse comment that "the cause of decay in most instances was due to the failure of the defunct to mind their own business." There is pertinent sense in the remark that in almost every case "nations which engaged in the work of empire building pursued the uneconomic course of neglecting the development of their home resources." Economic backing is essential to permanency of government, and solidarity is best promoted by developing domestic industry. Advocates of reciprocity ignore or fail to comprehend the wastefulness of trade artificially promoted. They see a chance to sell larger quantities of machinery to Russia by taking Russia's sugar on terms more advantageous than those granted to other countries; but they do not see that sound economics require that Russia shall make her own machinery; that we shall produce all the sugar we need, and that hauling machinery and sugar back and forth is, therefore, an unnecessary waste. They fall into the Cobdenite error of thinking that present cheapness is the only thing to be considered and that the people of today owe nothing to the generations to come.

The wane of Egypt's power and prestige is traced by Mr. Young directly to the mistaken policy of Ramses III, in opening up reciprocal trade relations with Phoenicia and Syria. Egypt fell a prey to her more vigorous rivals, because a heterogeneous population without a national aspiration, "a condition which inevitably ensues when the solidarity of interests which a prosperous domestic industry promotes is impaired by exchanging commercial dependence for a state of dependence upon foreigners." The manufacturers of Egypt and of Rome, says Mr. Young, were constantly trying to push their surplus wares on other peoples, and, like some moderns who are clamoring for an "open door," they overlooked the fact that when a door is opened it permits egress as well as ingress. In short, they repeated the experience through which Great Britain now passing, the destruction of domestic industry through the flood of rival products that followed the forcing open of the trade doors of foreigners. The interests of individuals will always prompt them to adopt methods which consider their own advancement at the expense of the community. It should be the aim of statesmen to restrain and not promote this tendency. It is a powerful enough factor when unaided, and influences the destinies of men sufficiently without the direct help of the law-makers.

In conclusion Mr. Young says it may be urged that a national policy such as here outlined is narrow and selfish, but reflection will convince any unbiased person that in the long run its operation will prove universally beneficial. Certainly it is no great economic achievement for a nation to flourish in brilliancy for a short period and then decay. But that is the fate which has overtaken many commercial nations, and it seems to be the destiny of Great Britain to share it. When a writer like Mallock coolly tells his countrymen that they must consider the propriety of emigrating as soon as their coal mines are worked out, he indicts the system he extols, for he virtually advises a reversion to nomadic conditions. That is what the forcing-out process tends to. Throughout the ages it has resulted in the shifting about of commercial centers, and is responsible for the attendant evils. It has made industrial peoples exiles by the side of raw materials. To-day they are exerting themselves to get rid of the bounties of nature as speedily as possible; at some future day they will be compelled to abandon the field of their operations because it is worked out, and resort to other countries, perhaps the very ones from which they lavished the surplus they should have conserved. This is not intelligent, nor is it economic. There ought to be a more rational scheme, but it will not develop until economists begin to teach that synchronous universal development promises better results than those attained by pursuing a course which operates to prevent the advancement of backward peoples. If the world were created for the enjoyment of the existing generation, the forcing-out process might have some justification. But it has not been. Other generations are to come after us, and we owe an obligation to them. Economists must keep this in mind. They cannot, they dare not, take for their motto: "After me the deluge."

The Republican Policy.

There is a difference between the two political parties. The republicans do want to govern the markets of the world, and to reign over the distribution of the world's bread and meat, securing in this way work for homesteaders, and markets for the products of our farms, and becoming a factor in the world that will dispel peace and justice among the peoples of the earth. It is the policy which will hasten that blessed time when the word shall be beaten into plow and the spear into pruning. It is the republican policy.—(Ill.) Journal.

WISE AND PROPER.

Secretary Gage's Action Regarding Russia's Indirect Sugar Bounties—Pertinent Facts.

The wisdom and propriety of Secretary Gage's action relative to the collection of countervailing duties on Russian beet sugar grow more and more apparent. Strong representations on this subject had been made to our government by the German ambassador at Washington prior to the decision of Secretary Gage, and a protest had been entered in behalf of Germany against discrimination in favor of Russian sugar, accompanied by an intimation that Germany might feel called upon to impose higher rates of duties on American products unless the grievance should be remedied. That such a course would have been taken by Germany under the continued irritation of having to pay a higher price than that paid by Russia for the privilege of the American market may be considered reasonably certain. Then, indeed, would the situation be a serious one to our exporters. We sell to Germany every year \$190,000,000 of our products, against only \$100,000,000 sold to Russia, and of the latter sum not more than \$2,500,000 is subject to the increased tariff put in force by Russia. Retaliatory duties on \$190,000,000, or retaliatory duties on \$2,500,000 would be the alternative certain to be sooner or later presented to Secretary Gage, and he naturally chose the smaller countervailing duties on Russian sugar pending a judicial determination of the question whether Russia does or does not pay some sort of bounty to her exporters of beet sugar. For his choice of action in this dilemma Secretary Gage is on all accounts to be commended rather than censured.

It is of additional interest to know that the United States minister at St. Petersburg confirms the statement of Secretary Gage that the additional duties lately imposed by Russia do not apply to imports of agricultural machinery from the United States. It is also stated on reliable authority that imports of railway materials and supplies from the United States, being known in Russia as imports for the government, are not subject to any additional duty.

RUSSIAN SUGAR CASE.

Secretary Gage's Action Vindicated by Decision of the General Board of Appraisers.

The action of Secretary Gage in the matter of countervailing duties on imports of Russian beet sugar is sustained by the decision of the classification board of the United States general appraisers. The decision of the board, in which Messrs. Somerville and Fischer concur and from which Mr. Tichenor dissents, is in substance and effect that the Russian government's remission of the excise tax upon sugar when exported amounts to a bounty or grant. Mr. Tichenor takes the contrary view. It is difficult to see how the board could have reached any other conclusion. The obvious intent of the Russian government is to stimulate and encourage the export of surplus beet sugar by remitting to manufacturers the amount of internal tax previously paid. Such rebate or remission operates as a premium or bounty on sugar that is exported. It is a primary rule of interpretation that "in whatever language a statute may be framed, its purpose must be determined by its natural and reasonable effect." The federal courts will now pass upon the question whether the natural and reasonable effect of Russia's remission of internal tax on exported beet sugar was or was not equivalent to a bounty or premium.

THREE FLOURISHING PLANTS.

From the hue and cry which the free traders raised at the news that Russia had enacted a retaliatory tariff measure against the United States a novice in respect to free trade methods would have supposed that our whole export trade was threatened with annihilation. The more facts which come to light, however, the more significant does Russia's action appear. It is now found that out of a total volume of exports amounting to \$10,470,449 in value which were sent to Russia by this country during the past year, only \$2,872,429 worth of goods came under the benefit of articles which are affected by the Russian retaliatory tariff measure just adopted. Therefore, even if Russia should persist in her policy of punishing herself in order to punish the United States, the American people would not suffer seriously, and certainly would not suffer to nearly so great an extent as would have been the case if we had risked treaty obligations with other countries in order to show favor to Russia. The Russian bluff won't work, in spite of free trade assistance in this country, and when Russia fully realizes that fact she is not unlikely to call the bluff off.

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THE ASPARAGUS BEETLE.

To Exterminate This Pest for Next Year Active Operations Must Be Commenced Now.

The common asparagus beetle needs no description other than the illustration given herewith from a drawing by F. H. Chittenden, United States department of agriculture. It is not practical to spray old beds from which asparagus is being cut for the destruction of this pest. The beetles cluster upon the young shoots just as they are coming through the ground; even at times going below the surface, attacking the young plants. In old beds, several stalks should be permitted to stand in each row at intervals of about two rods. These stalks throw out leaves and the beetles concentrate upon them, feed for a short time, and then deposit their eggs. These trap plants can be sprayed thoroughly with paris green and water at the rate of four ounces in 40 gallons. The poison can be applied dry by mixing one pound of paris green in 100 pounds of common flour or land plaster.



The insects attacking young beds should be collected by hand at first. A couple of small boys with tin pails or pans containing about one pint of water and a teaspoonful of kerosene can catch the beetles by bending the young plants over the vessel and shaking them slightly, care being taken not to break them off. As soon as the plants begin to leaf out, they can be sprayed or dusted with paris green. If the young larvae or worms are brushed off on the dry, hot, sandy soil, during the middle of the day, many of them are destroyed.

The fight in combating this pest should begin now to save the crop both this and next year. As soon as the cutting season is over and before the old vines have become veritable breeding beds for the beetle, spray or dust thoroughly. The insects spend the winter as adults and hide in any place they can find protection. If, therefore, the early and late broods are destroyed, the greatest number of them can be prevented from reaching maturity. If the first brood now depositing its eggs is fought persistently, the second generation will not be so difficult to handle. If both broods are allowed to breed without any attempt to destroy them, next year's asparagus crop will be in great danger.—Orange Judd Farmer.

RAIN AND SUNSHINE.

Scientists Claim They Are the Determining Factors in Flavoring Berries and Melons.

There are years when fruit has not the flavor usually belonging to it. Especially is this the case with strawberries and melons. On investigation it is found that rainfall and sunshine are the principal factors in determining flavors. In very wet seasons fruits grow large, but contain little sugar. In dry seasons much more sugar is elaborated, and this sugar enters very largely into the indefinable something we call flavor. Prof. Troop, of Indiana, touching on the same subject, says: "An excessive amount of rain is undoubtedly one of the chief causes of trouble. It is a well-known fact that during a very wet season strawberries and other fruits grow large, but contain little sugar. In dry seasons much more sugar is elaborated, and this sugar enters very largely into the indefinable something we call flavor. Prof. Troop, of Indiana, touching on the same subject, says: "An excessive amount of rain is undoubtedly one of the chief causes of trouble. 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